

District councillor's report, October 2013

1. Government spending review: further information

The Government aims to remove Rate Support Grant (RSG) altogether over time, leaving local councils to raise money entirely from business rates, Council Tax and non-core funding.

We estimate that our funding from central government will fall by a further 15% over the three years 2014/15 to 2016/17, meaning that Mid Suffolk and Babergh will need to make additional combined savings of £700k over that period.

On the plus side (but thanks to our own efforts) the cost savings due to rationalisation of officer jobs means that we are likely to exceed our target of cost savings of £1.3m for the current year.

2. Bosch, Stowmarket

Job losses of around 45 have been announced, as a result of the decision to transfer assembly of low end product ranges to either Hungary or China, as it is no longer cost effective to do so here. However, these job losses will be achieved through natural wastage or non-renewal of short term contracts. The company assures us that it remains committed to the location for the longer term.

3. Affordable housing

Planning applications have been submitted for affordable homes in Wilby (10), Wyverstone (2) and Coddenham (5), and will be considered in the next couple of months.

4. Environmental protection

The Environmental Protection team has taken over responsibility for the investigation of complaints/allegations of unlicensed activities, or breaches of licences relating to alcohol sales, regulated entertainment, late night refreshment, taxis, etc. They have separately taken over responsibility for investigating allegations/complaints relating to fly-tipping, littering, graffiti, dog fouling and other "envirocrime" offences.

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